

NEWS

From the Office of

Brad Mitzelfelt

Supervisor, First District
San Bernardino County

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For information, contact
David Zook (909) 387-4830
www.sbcounty.gov/mitzelfelt

County to Collect Holiday Gifts for Troops and Their Families

SAN BERNARDINO – San Bernardino County this week unveiled its plan to again partner with Yellow Ribbon of America to collect holiday gifts for troops and their families. The County Department of Veterans Affairs will partner with the nonprofit group to collect and distribute holiday gifts in a repeat of last year's operation which successfully collected about 50,000 items to send to troops serving overseas. Although gifts will again be collected for troops this year, the focus will be on collecting gifts for the children and families of the troops.

"Our troops have an important job to do – the last thing they need to be doing is worrying about whether or not their children will be taken care of during the holidays," said First District Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt, who is himself a veteran. "We're hoping to ease their minds by ensuring their kids and families are well cared for."

The San Bernardino County Department of Veterans Affairs will coordinate the collections, and individual County department heads will work with their employees to collect items. The Department of Veterans Affairs is placing collection boxes at County fire stations, branch libraries and other County offices. Suggested donations include pre-paid phone cards, gift cards and new, unwrapped toys.

Yellow Ribbon of America will collect the care packages and distribute them to families the group has been providing holiday care packages to the troops and their families since 2004.

While most items collected will be distributed to military families, the County will work with Touch of Home Support 4R Deployed Military – a Crestline-based nonprofit – to send any donated comfort items such as hygiene products, snacks, books, and magazines to local troops serving overseas.